





Hongkong, June 22, 1885.

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himself and then he ran down

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pursuers. A dagger was found in

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Hospital.

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The D. D. A. steamer *Perkins* left  
pore for this port on the 21st inst.

Destination.	Vessels.	Captain.	Agents.	Date of Leaving.
London, via Suez Canal.	Achilles (s).	Anderson	Butterfield & Swire	June 24
London, &c., via Suez Canal.	Anemone (s).	R. G. Murray	P. & O. S. N. Co.	July 2, at 4 p.m.
Manillela, &c., via Saigon	Oxus (s).	Lequerré	Messageries Maritimes	July 5, at noon.
Portland (Oregon)	Director	Bogert	O. & D. S. Co.	Quick despatch.
San Francisco, via Yokohama	Arable (s).	Russell & Co.	Russell & Co.	June 24, at 3 p.m.
San Francisco.	Highland Light.	Narcissa	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
Swatow and Bangkok.	Pura Chom (s).	H. Stratton	Yuen Fat Hong.	June 26, at noon.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow	Namoo (s).	Pitman	Douglas Lapsack & Co.	June 26, at noon.
Sydney and Melbourne, &c.	Woonung (s).	Hunt	Butterfield & Swire	June 23, at 4 p.m.
Sydney and Melbourne, &c.	Suez (s).	Dodd	Gill, Blair & Co.	June 25, at 4 p.m.
Sydney and Melbourne, &c.	Tannadise (s).	Gordon	Russell & Co.	July 7, at 3 p.m.
Trieste, &c., via Columbia.	Berenice (s).	Narcissa	O. Bachrach.	June 30, at noon.
Victoria (British Columbia).	Navarino	Dodd	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
Yam.	Timor (s).	Willis	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.

JUNE 22, 1885

	Stocks.	No. of Shares.	Value.	Paid-up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.	Last Dividend.	Closing Quotations.
					Balance forward.		Cash.
	BANKS.				\$ 4,400,000		
	Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corp.	30,000	125	125	Per equivalent dividend of \$ 400,000	61,370 £ 2 half year	156 1/2 prem. cash; 162 1/2 per Aug. 18
	INSURANCES.						
	North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.	5,000	200	50	Tla. 540,107	...	Tla. 300 per share
	Yangtze Insurance Company, Ltd.	8,000	212	26 1/2	50,000	...	Tla. 130 "
	Union Insurance Society Co., Ltd.	2,000	13 1/2	25 1/2	534,000	...	\$490 "
	China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.	24,000	83 3/4	23	600,000	...	\$67 " cash
	Canton Insurance Office Co., Ltd.	10,000	50	65	105,000	...	\$85 "
	Chinese Insurance Co., Limited.	1,500	1,000	200	22,711.50	Credit balance \$ 35,165.30	...
	Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	8,000	250	50	900,609.50	297,553.97 \$10 for 1883	\$360 " cash
	China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	100	20	547,500	121,060.09 \$ 5 for 1883	\$72 " cash, bu
	STEAM COMPANIES.				\$ 206,236.55	4,593.98 6 % half year	43 prem.
	H.K. C. and M. Steamboat Co., Ltd.	8,000	100	75	deprec. fund	...	...
	Indo-China S. N. Company, Limited	18,387	10	10	...	...	25 % discount, buyers
	60,000 shares issued	...	112	10	...	...	30 discount
	China and Manilla S. S. Co., Ltd.	3,500	100	all	...	...	...
	MERCANTILES.						
	H'kong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	10,000	126	125	13,000	6,683.96 6 % half year	66 % prem., 69 Aug. 81, bu
	H.K. and China Gas Co., Limited.	500	10	10	\$ 8,552.17 10	...	\$90 per share, nominal
	New Shares.	1,000	10	7 1/2	...	...	...
	Hongkong Hotel Company, Ltd.	2,000	100	...	...	2,483.60 Old, \$3.60 New, \$1.50	Old, \$160 per share, bu New, \$ 80 "
	3,000 shs. issued	1,000	...	...	...	13,774.03 Old, \$3.60 New, \$1.50	\$103 " cash, bu
	China Sugar Company, Limited.	9,000	100	100	3,000	235.33 210 1/2	\$140 per share " cash, bu
	Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	1,250	100	100	4,000	422.11 810	\$120 " ex div., bu
	Hongkong Bakery Company, Ltd.	600	60	50	...	...	\$34 " cash, buyers
	Luson Sugar Company, Limited.	7,000	100	100	...	...	\$40 " nominal
	Perak Tin Mining & S'ing Co., Ltd.	5,000	50	all	...	First year	\$13 " cash
	Selangore Tin Mining Co. (S'hai)	2,000	100	all	...	do.	\$71 " "
	H'kong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	3,000	50	all	...	...	...
	LOANS.				Rates of Interest.	Payable.	
	Chinese Imperial 1881	8,565 Tl.	500	all	8 1/2 %	June 16 & Dec. 10	...
	" " 1884	2790 \$	500	all	8 1/2 %	Mar. 5	...
	" " 1884	2790 \$	500	all	8 1/2 %	June 30	...
	" " 1884	2790 \$	500	all	8 1/2 %	June & Decem.	...
	Sugar Debentures	600	500	all	8 1/2 %	...	1 % prem.



Chili and of the two Imperial Commissions who have for the past six weeks assisted him in the negotiation of which we celebrate to-day the happy consummation!

I have full confidence that the diplomatic deed which we have signed will have for effect not alone the putting of an end to the discussions the memory of which will, I trust, be promptly effaced. In multiplying between France and China points of contact; in opening to the commercial enterprise of nations new channels, the treaty of the 9th June will contribute, without doubt, to strengthen and to develop between the Chinese Empire and foreign countries that community of interests which has always been the best bond of friendship between the peoples. If the Imperial Government is inspired, in this respect, with the same sentiments which animate the Government of the Republic, the present treaty will then produce solid and lasting results for all. It is to this end, gentlemen, that I ask you to join me in the toast which I propose: in honor of the Chinese Plenipotentiaries who have aided me so well, in securing peace, concord and progress.

The Viceroy Li replied through Mr. Tuck, who speaks excellent French—

"The Viceroy requests me, Monsieur le Ministre, to translate his reply to your amiable speech.

"We have in China a proverb which says: 'Friendship has the same brightness as the sun.' This adage is above all true when applied to the bonds which unite two great nations, such as China and France, whose welfare is inseparably connected. The friendship which exists between our two countries will be as brilliant as the morning sun when it dispenses the vapours of the night. If, by chance, any cloud should arise, H. E. M. de France, or his successors will easily dispel it.

"The happy event which we celebrate to-day recalls to us a time of our country, which we cannot but remember, then, by quoting two verses of an illustrious poet of the West (Hymn):

"Night comes, 'tis vapours round the mountain curled,  
Midnight comes, and light awakes the world."

"The Viceroy and the Imperial Commissioners pray all good present and it is able to join them in drinking to the health of H. E. the Minister of France."

At 6 o'clock the Viceroy Li gave a banquet in the large saloon of the Chinese Admiralty to the French Minister and the Chinese Commissioners. Thirty-two guests were present. Monsieur Patenôtre was attended by the staff of the French Legation and Consulate. The English, German, Russian and Japanese Consuls were present in full uniform, and the American Consul attended, according to the custom of the U. S. service, in evening dress. Mr. James Hart and Mr. Dering attended on behalf of the Imperial Commissions. The only unofficial guest was Mr. Alexander Michie.

Yesterday, the 10th instant, Mr. Patenôtre gave a return dinner in the French Consulate. The singular grounds and mansion were illuminated, and the Viceroy's wind band was in attendance.

There is still one cloud in the heavens, the vexed question of the delimitation of the Amur. The Russians are playing their incident game of refusing on various excuses to send their Commissioner. The whole story is an exact repetition of the Cabul commission, in which that lubber Lord Kimberley, and that arch pro-Russian Gladstone were so pitifully and disgustingly humbugged. But the Chinese Commissioner Wei is under orders to go, and China is quite ready to mark the delimitations as she thinks fit, if the Muscovite does not appear.

For the present all dispute about Annam-Tonkin is over. China has lost seventy million (70,000,000) taels in money, and many scores of thousands of men's lives. The loss has been frightful. France has expended probably quite as much money as China. France has lost 12 to 15,000 men, some in fight, but mostly by sickness. It is said the loss is actually even greater, but no true account of the mortality in Formosa and Tonkin can be got. And for all these vast outlays of men and treasure France gets, in return, a worthless country, and although General Brialmont, and General Negrier, Admirals Courbet and Lespes have proved themselves to be gallant and good officers, and though the French soldiers and sailors have fought well and have endured excessive privation and distress with fortitude, the campaign will not add to the glory of France. General Camponon, the minister of war, was quite right when he prophesied woes and judgments. France was carrying on a most dangerous and difficult war. The regions of the conflict were remote, the climate was deadly, and as Japan refused to ally herself with France—the French forces had no true strategic base for operations.

The first act of the drama is over. What the future has in store we await with anxiety. One thing is sure—China is no longer a "quantité négligeable," but has become infused with warlike ardour, the people are proud of what they have done, patriotism has been awakened, the rulers for the first time comprehend the potential resources of the vast state with its teeming and homogeneous peoples, and England and Russia will now have to reckon in Asia with a third power that may—given a leader and a cause—become greater than either. China is now a military nation.

The letter of the Pope to the Emperor has had a most surprising and altogether beneficial effect. The document was received by the Yamen with all signs of gratification. It was laid before the Emperor, and an immediate, most amiable and acceptably reply was given by the Emperor, and will be delivered to His Holiness the Pope by Monsignor Giulianelli. The end will be that China will have diplomatic relations with the Vatican direct. A Chinese minister will be (probably) accredited to the Pope, and His Holiness will have a representative in China.

The comments of some Protestant Missionaries on the Pope's letter are idiotic. How is it that the Protestant Missionaries

are so abnormally ignorant? They profess to know the Bible, but misread it, and scorn all other knowledge. The fact is that the Pope's letter to the Chinese Emperor was according to precedents in vogue for some 1,300 years. For Emperors one style is put in use. For Kings another. For princes and potentates another, and probably some form will be found on occasion dedicated to Dissenting Missionaries. Latin, too, is a language giving itself to honorifics, and I may add that the Latin phrases and titles were exactly what are required by Chinese court etiquette, and were rendered literally in every case by direct translation. The Pope's letter was sent in consequence of wise counsel, and the result, so far, have been such as to constitute an admirable success.

PATENÔTRE.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

DOES OUR 'OFFICIALDOM' PAY?  
To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL,'  
22nd June, 1885.

SIR,—Now that attention has been drawn to the affairs of our Island Home and Foreign (also, without Ports as yet), and Mr. A. P. MacEwen's views are taken up by the *Whitehall Review*, it is not a good time to protest against the useless land that this Crown Colony has to carry in the shape of such an expensive Administration as we are now added with. I venture to say a Council of our leading residents, business men, being British subjects, would manage our affairs more efficiently and at half the cost and give much greater satisfaction to the public than any civil Governor we are ever likely to get. Let us have a Military Governor by all means, and leave his house free to attend to the defence of the place and sign documents; there are no political duties here, and a Council of local men would attend to local concerns with some prospect of getting work put in hand and finished, and prevent us from being made laughing stock as at present. We do not require sham Auxiliary Militia and such like nonsense. But we do want the sanitation of the island seen to; we do want a proper Quarantine Hospital; we do want our dockyard placed on an efficient footing; we do want the treatment of criminals improved. The question of hospital accommodation for our merchant seamen and the treatment they receive at the present Hospital must be enquired into, and the hundred and one other matters well known to all residents which are allowed to slide under the present system.

The boiler will burst some day, and Governor Bowen will find he has been living in a fool's paradise. He, poor man, is not responsible for the system, but he has allowed things to accumulate, and the result will follow. People are not by any means blind to what goes on under their noses in this Malta and Gibraltar of the Far East, though for one reason and another they are very loth to speak, or write. Perhaps it is the climate!

It is to be hoped our Chamber of Commerce on the night. We expect to hear its voice next cold weather in no uncertain tone, and if led by such men as Byrne, MacEwen, Molyer, Keswick, and others of proved metal, good cannot fail to come of it. The question of taxation is ahead of us for future consideration, and that will surely fetch the feelings of the community.

#### COLONY.

[Mr. A. P. MacEwen's argument in favour of a Military Governor was, if we mistake not, based on the fact that the civil Governor had abdicated his functions, and had shifted his responsibility for the care of Colonial commercial interests on to the shoulders of the British Minister at Peking. This might have been a strong argument in favour of the appointment of a more capable civil Governor for Hongkong, but was not the best reason for appointing a military Governor to watch the interests of a large commercial depot. Our correspondent 'Colonist' suggests the combination of a Civil Council, a sort of Municipal Council, with the Military Commandant. This would certainly be a stroke of economy, but it is doubtful whether the time has arrived for such a change in the Charter of Hongkong. There is no doubt, however, that a vast amount of reform remains still to be done. Even under our present system, with a fearless Governor, a vigorous Chamber of Commerce, and a healthy public opinion to keep the officialdom in check, and to put to the mark, great improvements might be brought about. The voice of the people might do much more than it has yet done, if only the influential men would lead.—Ed. C.M.]

#### SUPREMACY COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.  
(Before His Hon. E. J. Acland, Puisne Judge.)  
Monday, June 22.

APPEALS AGAINST THE PUBLIC VALUATOR'S ASSESSMENTS.  
This morning was set down for hearing a number of appeals by property holders against the assessments made by the Public Valuator (Mr. G. O. Malesch). Mr. Stokes, of Messrs. Sharp, Johnson and Stokes, the Acting Crown Solicitor, appeared for the respondent; Mr. Deacon, of Messrs. Wotton and Deacon, appeared for Mr. E. R. Bell, one of the appellants, and Mr. C. E. Evans, and Mr. D. Caldwell, also appeared for appellants.

The Hon. A. Lister, the Colonial Treasurer, and Mr. Malesch, were present in Court.

The first appeal heard was that of Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co., who were represented by Mr. J. A. Moseley, one of their employees. Mr. Stokes stated that it might save time and simplify matters if His Lordship would express an opinion on two questions of principle. He explained that the Valuator had not framed his valuation on the actual rate paid, but acting under section 8 of Ordinance 19 of 1885, had made his estimate on what the property might reasonably be expected to yield, judging by the surrounding property. If His Lordship would express an opinion as to that, probably some of the cases might be arranged. The second was as to whether when a tenement was leased for a number of years, the original rental was to be taken for the assessment, or the sum which the tenant might reasonably be expected to let for in the ensuing year, supposing it were to let.

His Lordship said he did not see anything in these points to prevent him going into the case.

Mr. Moseley appealed against the assessment placed upon the properties at great many instances. He commenced by stating that four godowns on Pedder's Hill were assessed at \$25, although the monthly rental received on two was only \$20, and the other two were empty.

The next on the list was dwelling house No. 3 Pedder's Hill, which was let to Mr. Kennedy-Edwards at \$45 per month, or \$540 per year, and had been so let since January.

His Lordship, referring to the godowns—Mr. Stokes, what is the principle, authority or reason for placing places let for years for \$200 at \$300?

Mr. Stokes—That value was arrived at after considering the value of the surrounding property.

In reply to His Lordship, Mr. Moseley asked there were no godowns in the immediate neighbourhood.

Reverting to the house in Pedder's Hill, Mr. Moseley said he did not recollect what the house was let for last year, but the rent had certainly not been increased; the house had been let for a longer period. It was valued at \$600 last year, and taxes were paid on that sum. The rental was lower this year and yet the same valuation was placed upon it. There was no other reason for the rent being lower than that they could not get more for the house. No special concession made to the tenant.

He mentioned that he had sent to Mr. Malesch the valuation of house No. 3 and 4 at \$541, the actual rent received, and that had been passed. House No. 2 was, perhaps, better situated than the others, being the corner house of the block.

For house No. 9 Queen's Road Central they received a rental of \$3,500. It had been let under a lease since 1878 to Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., which would expire at the end of 1888. It was next to Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. No. 9 was a good house, at what rate they could let the house, it was only suited for a big firm. The next house also belonged to them, and was let to Messrs. G. R. Stevens & Co., who had leased it to Messrs. Pustak & Co. The actual rent was \$4,800. Mr. Moseley explained that in his return he had put the rental of the house and the godown at the back of \$4,500; that was \$3,600 for the house and \$900 for the godown. Mr. Malesch, however, separated those, and assessed the house at \$4,500 and the godown at \$900, or \$5,400.

His Lordship again referred to the Section and asked Mr. Stokes if he could explain a house which had been let for four or five years at \$500, to be let the ensuing year at \$800.

Mr. Stokes said that was a question which came under the second principle which he had pointed out. The Valuator had made an assessment whether the premises were let for a term of years or not, at what they might reasonably be expected to get supposing they were to be let for the ensuing year.

His Lordship—Which they cannot be, because they are already let.

Mr. Moseley—I think \$300 per month is very reasonable.

His Lordship—Have you any authority for taxing anything but the annual rent, when the rent is fair?

Mr. Stokes—No, it is only a question of opinion. The Valuator has assessed on what he thinks the properties might reasonably be expected to let for next year. In some cases the landlord only receives say \$1000, when the tenant may be letting the properties for larger sums.

Mr. Moseley—That we never do.

His Lordship to Mr. Stokes—But that does not apply.

Mr. Moseley then mentioned house No. 11 Queen's Road Central. That was let to Messrs. G. R. Stevens, and a shop by them at the same rental, to Messrs. Pustak & Co. and Butterfield and Sire. The actual rent was \$4,400 per year, and it was assessed at \$4,500.

15 Queen's Road Central, occupied by the Chartered Mercantile Bank, was let for \$4,200 per year, and assessed at \$4,800. Mr. Moseley said the house was built for a bank and let on a 10 years' lease. He was inclined to think the property ought to be let for more than that now, but they had let it for that.

No. 15 Queen's Road Central was let as offices to Messrs. Butterfield and Sire for \$5,400, and assessed at \$5,750.

It was suggested by Mr. Stokes that Messrs. Lister and Davis, who occupied the rooms of this block on the second floor, sublet some of them. Mr. Moseley said he knew nothing of that.

House No. 4 Hollywood Road, formerly rented at \$50 by the present tenant of No. 2, was now empty, and he now valued it at \$340 per annum, because he could not get \$50 for it. It was assessed at \$600.

Among the other properties mentioned were No. 2 Wyndham Street, the 'Gordon Club.' The rent received for that was \$4,000 per year; it was assessed at \$4,800. This building was only adapted for a Club and that was why it could not get for it.

No. 2 Seymour Terrace was actually let for \$600, and it was assessed at \$650 per annum, the rent of the other houses in the Terrace.

Mr. Stokes—Are not the other houses in the Terrace the same as this one.

Mr. Moseley—Yes.

Was not No. 2 lately put into thorough repair?—Sure time ago it was.

Why should that house not have the same rental?—It is let to a very old tenant who refuses to pay more.

How long has it been empty?—It was empty for some time as a result.

His Lordship—Therefore, if our tenants refuse to pay more you let the houses at the rent they are paying?—Not as a rule. The tenant has been in the house a long time; for 16 years.

Mr. Moseley then said your principle would come in there, Mr. Stokes. This is the only case I have found yet.

Mr. Moseley then mentioned a lot of Chinese houses in which the difference between the rent and valuation was trifling, \$5, \$10, and \$15. He only mentioned these because he did not see why they should not be charged.

Mr. Moseley in going over the cases incidentally remarked that he did not expect to get more for these next year as when the rates went up the rents were naturally expected to come down. In answer to queries from His Lordship, Mr. Moseley also stated that he thought the rates for much for their properties as other properties. During the past three or four years rents had not gone up.

His Lordship then said he proposed to take Mr. Bell's case.

Mr. Stokes asked His Lordship to express an opinion as to the effect of principle, because if His Lordship held that the valuation should be made on the actual rent received by the landlord, many of the cases might be arranged.

His Lordship said he thought the actual rent received by the landlord should be taken as the criterion except in exceptional circumstances, such as in the case of No. 2 Seymour Terrace, where the landlord had made a special concession to his tenant. If the landlord chose to reduce the rent he could do so, but he thought the Government should not suffer on that account, and that the rates should remain the same.

All the other cases were then adjourned for a week; except those of Mr. Bell's. Through Mr. N. J. Gomes, Mr. Deacon

proved the actual rental of several properties in Bank Buildings, on 1, Boscawen Arcade, Nos. 1 and 10 Hollywood Road. No judgment was given in the cases, which were similar to the instances put forward by Mr. Moseley, and the cases were then all adjourned until Friday next.

#### Police Intelligence.

(Before H. E. Wolskel.)  
Monday, June 22.

LAUNDRY FROM THE PERSON.  
Chau Kwong, a coolie, was convicted of stealing \$16 in Bank notes from a head coolie named Chu on 20th inst. At 6 p.m. on 21st inst. complainant was standing in front of a money changer's stall in Queen's Road West, with sixteen \$1 notes in his hand, when the prisoner came and snatched the notes from him, and ran away. Complainant pursued and caught the prisoner at each house into which he ran. The stolen money was found on his person. Defendant admitted the charge and was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

#### ASSAULT.

Heat-William Alves, a watchman employed at the Consumption Dock, appeared on a summons issued by To Asia, complainant to the same Dock, charging him with assaulting and beating complainant on the 10th inst. A cross summons charged the complainant, To Asia, with assaulting the defendant in the first instance. The court's attention was drawn to the effect that on the 10th inst. he was taking some stores over to the dock and defendant refused to let him take the articles ashore at the dock, saying he was carrying out his orders. Defendant pushed him back, and when he told him that he must go to the master about the matter gave him a blow on the chest and another on the head. Complainant got away and defendant fell into the water. He was quite so he never touched the watchman.

The respondent, Heat-William Alves, was corroborated by Ho Afink, an engineer, and Fong Assung, a leather-sewer, both employed at the dock.

Alves, the watchman's statement, in the cross summons, was to the effect that at 4 p.m. on the 10th while he was taking the back of the Consumption Dock a sampan loaded with charcoal and brooms came alongside the No. 1 wharf. He had received orders from the Superintendent and head watchman not to allow loading or discharging from that wharf, and he told the boatman to 'shove off.' This the boatman did but was rebuffed by the complainant who was upon the wharf. He told the complainant he would have to get special permission to let his sampan come alongside that wharf, but the complainant replied that he was not a boy, and he would have the cargo carried up there. Complainant told him he was pleased there to stop it. The complainant then called out to his coolie to pass the things ashore, and a bundle of brooms was landed. Complainant stopped down to pick up the brooms, when the complainant gave him a blow in the ribs. He asked the complainant what he meant but he gave him no answer, and as complainant was going to the office to report the matter to the Superintendent, the complainant pushed him off the wharf into the water. The witness said he fell in, and in falling he lost his watch. With great difficulty he reached the steps of the wharf, and when he got there he saw the complainant had two blows, the second knocking him into the water. He got up, and getting out of the water, the defendant was about to strike him again, when a European appeared and sang out to him, 'hold on that gains.' Complainant then got out of the water and went up the office, taking defendant with him. The latter tried to get away but he was struck and held by the complainant, and he was then taken to the Consumption Dock where he was subpoenaed.

#### LARGEY OF FISH.

Ng Ahli, a fisherman, was charged with stealing ten pigs, worth \$30, belonging to a gentleman at Kwai Wan, on the 15th inst. Defendant was charged with carrying off the pigs in company with two other men not in custody. He was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

AN INCREDIBLE ROUGE AND VAGABOND.  
Maung (Javanese), a Portuguese Indian who has spent the best part of four years in Victoria Gali as a rogue and vagabond, was found drunk and incapable in the street on the 19th inst., and was to-day sent to goal for three months' hard labour.

#### NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The E. E. and A. Co.'s steamer *Tandier*, Captain Green, arrived here from the Australian ports. From our files to hand we extract the following telegrams:—

Aden, May 20.—On Friday last, before the departure of the Australian Contingent from Suakin, the New South Wales portion of the Contingent Corps, together with other troops of Major-General McNeill's brigade, marched out to the zarba in the road to Tadmira in order to search for the missing bodies of a number of the troops who were killed in the stampede which ensued when the British convoy was surprised by a large body of the enemy on the 22nd March. On arrival at the place the party found about 100 bodies, which were strewn about in all directions within the zarba. Most of the bodies were those of Indian coolie followers, but there were also eight British soldiers among the dead. The scene that met the eyes of the party was fearful and sickening in the extreme. All the corpses had been mutilated by the Arabs in an indescribable manner, and it was evident that some of the wounded had been tortured and murdered until death relieved their sufferings. The whole of the corpses were buried in the vicinity of the British soldiers. A strong body of the enemy was observed in the vicinity, and a few shots were exchanged with the British soldiers, but the operations of the British troops were not interrupted. The Contingent Corps attached to the British force at Suakin has been disbanded.

Brisbane, May 23.—Lieutenant William Byron Brown, of the 10th Lancers, a son of Dr. W. J. Brown, has just died of fever in Lower Suakin. He was selected by the War Office to join the Camel Corps expedition for the relief of Gordon, and served during the whole of the Campaign. He was born in Adelaide.

June 6.—The Australian Contingent have left Suakin, it is reported that a number of the men are, or were, sick. Twelve men were left at Suakin, two of whom have since died. The day the Contingent are to land, has been proclaimed a public holiday in Sydney.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.  
May 28.—Pending the development of the Afghan question, several attempts at Russian objects strongly to the English fortification of Herat, but General Stewart has gone there for that purpose, and the Amir of Afghanistan has sent a heavy battery of artillery.

A home paper states that the Queen is exceedingly anxious to preserve peace, and that she wrote to the Emperor William asking him to exert his influence with the Czar of Russia to that end.

June 9.—The negotiations for a peaceful settlement between England and Russia are still uncompleted.

The session of Penzance has been officially notified at Herat; the inhabitants are much surprised at the announcement.

The Admiralty has decided to provide the Australian Colonies with torpedo boats, and has adopted a new Australian pattern, invented by Brennan, of Melbourne; they have decided to handover to Brennan for his invention.

A blue-book, published on Monday last, displays Earl Granville's conduct in reference to the Afghan dispute, as having been weak and vacillating in the extreme.

MICHAELBENZ.  
London, May 21.—The woman Dudley, who attempted to shoot O'Donovan Rossa in New York in January last, has been released from custody.

Sydney, May 27.—The German warships *Sten* and *Frank*, which have been ordered to proceed to Zanzibar.

It is reported that the steamer *Stirling Castle*, which is being fitted up at Malta as a British cruiser, will be stationed in Australian waters.

The headquarters of the British portion of New Guinea have been called to the Governors of the Australian colonies.

The Admiralty will supply New Zealand and New South Wales with ten each of the German torpedoes immediately; and as soon as possible Adelaide, Victoria, and Tasmania with Whiteheads.

Brisbane, May 30.—The Orient liner *Austral* arrived on Sunday, making the quickest passage on record, 35 days. She brought newspapers only thirty days old.

Porters, the English sculler, has challenged Messenger, Beach's trainer for his last race.

Ross, the Canadian, expresses himself as surprised that Beach has not yet replied to the challenge sent by him.

The ship *Star of Denmark* has just arrived from London, and reports having seen, on April 9th, a vessel of fourteen hundred tons burning close to the water's edge. No signs of life were visible in the neighbourhood of the burning vessel.

A daring robbery has been perpetrated at the National Bank, Collingwood, Melbourne, early this week. It has been customary to remove all money to the Richmond branch every night; the manager of the Collingwood branch obtained £115,10s. in notes, gold, and silver, which he placed in a bag and carried to his own branch, and accompanied by the accountant, entered the bank and locked the door. When they reached the manager's room they were both seized and overpowered by three masked men, who bound them and carried them to a house in the neighbourhood of the burning vessel.

The men took the contents of the bag, and also a bag of silver out of the safe, and decamped. The accountant rolled himself to the door and saved the alarm, information being given by the manager of the police within a quarter of an hour, but no arrests have as yet been made.

London, May 10.—The British Admiralty have decided to have the combined naval reserve squadron, including four first-class men-of-war, assemble at Portland and proceed thence to Bantay Bay, Ireland, to engage in a naval demonstration of extraordinary importance. Torpedo experiments will be carried on on a gigantic scale, and the demonstration will conclude with a sham naval battle of the 'revenge' to be fought by any officer of the kind ever hitherto undertaken.

The Afghan correspondents dealing with the Penzance battle, including Sir Peter Lumsden's dispatches subsequent thereto, will be presented to the House of Commons on Monday next.

St. Petersburg, May 10.—Troops are being massed for grand manoeuvres and artillery practice at Krasno-Selo. The purchase of two steamers has been authorized for the defence of Helsinki, the capital of Finland. Rigorous measures are being adopted to prevent the export of arms to the Turkish preparations for the defence of these waters. Indeed, fears are entertained that Russia will attempt rushing for the Dardanelles. The article speaks of the absolute necessity of obtaining the disarmament of Woods, Balkan, and account of his nationality. A few nights ago a false alarm of the approach of the Russian squadron caused great excitement at the upper mouth of the Bosphorus. The batteries were manned and troops were hastily sent to reinforce the garrison. All the measures proposed by the Russo-German Commission are being actively carried out. Krupp has just received a large order for rifled mortars, to be placed on the heights of the Dardanelles.

London, May 20.—Advice from Tirpitz says that Sir Peter Lumsden's advice to the Government was that, in view of recent events, it was best to break up the commission, leaving the Government itself to settle the question with Russia.

St. Petersburg, May 21.—The Czar will review the entire Russian fleet between Cronstadt and Seaburg in June, when there will also be various manoeuvres and coast attacks.

The Amco Darya Steamship Company is formed of Russian and German capitalists. The company intends to open a regular service between Baku and the Aral sea and to build itself, in the event of war, to place its steamers at the disposal of the Russian Government for the transportation of troops.

Rumors are current here to the effect that the Anglo-Russian negotiations have collapsed. It is believed, however, that the rumors originated with the war party.

The Serb predicts an outbreak in Macedonia and Bulgaria against the Turks and Greeks, which will set the whole Balkan world in flames.

Constantinople, May 20.—The Porte has

territory, of which Herat is the salient point.

From St. Petersburg comes the news that the Russian Government has decided upon Russianizing the German provinces along the Baltic. To accomplish this the Czar has issued a ukase that hereafter the Russian language shall be taught in all the schools wherein heretofore German has been taught. A similar edict has been issued in Warsaw in the official journal. This edict makes the Russian language the only elementary language to be taught throughout Russian Poland.

It is announced that as soon as the Anglo-Russian difficulty is settled the Czarina will visit the Princess of Wales in London.

The statement is made that Earl Granville has consented to the Afghan frontier rectification matter.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—The Czar has sent General Komaroff a sword of honor, the hilt of the sword being gold, and the scabbard richly set with diamonds. The present was accompanied by an autograph letter from the Czar, warmly praising General Komaroff's military services, and his firmness in dealing with the Afghans, as well as his gallantry in the engagement at Dushleppie. A similar honor was conferred upon General Zarembovsky.

New York, May 18.—A Sun cablegram from London of May 17th says: A suggestion of further difficulty with Russia is furnished by a report current to-night to the effect that the Russian Government has demanded and obtained from Persia the release of Ayoub Khan. This veteran insurgent leader, a member of Afghanistan, was arrested only last month by the Shah, at the solicitation of the British Consul at Tokeran, who had information that Ayoub was about to be employed by Russia to foment a rising against the Amir Abdurrahman, with a view of Ayoub's dismissal from the Shah's service. Ayoub has been detained as a semi-prisoner at Tokeran since April 11th, notwithstanding one or two mild protests by Russia.

To-night's report indicates that Russia has got tired of protesting, and being asked to discontinue the question, though she stretched to any limit, she has altered her tone to one of command. If it is true the Shah has released Ayoub upon a Russian demand, it is significant as proving that British prestige among the Asiatics is crumbling.

News, advises state that work on the railway between Kizilart and Askabad has been temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the delay is caused by the formation by Russia of a new railway bulwark. At present there are only 19,000 Russian troops between Krasnovodsk and Samarkand, but the Fortified division is expected to arrive there soon.

New York, May 18.—The *Herald's* St. Petersburg correspondent describes a scene between the invisible Czar and De Giers, the Russian Minister at London, on the burning close to the water's edge. No signs of life were visible in the neighbourhood of the burning vessel.

De Giers, embarrassed, replied: 'Sir, my amendments have been made, and I am sorry to hear that the Russian Minister at London is not satisfied with the modifications of the Empress, was not accepted. De Giers' position is rather shaky, but it is still firmly believed here that war has been averted.'

St. Petersburg, May 18.—The *Vedomosti* says: The Russian Minister at Washington has received from the Russian Government a reply to give numerous offers of American Irishmen to serve under Russian colors in the event of war with England as officers, doctors, spies, torpedo divers and commanders of cruisers. Several Irishmen have already been recruited, including four torpedo boats at their own expense. American shipowners have declared their readiness to loan a small war fleet for the Russian service.

London, May 10.—The British Admiralty have decided to have the combined naval reserve squadron, including four first-class men-of-war, assemble at Portland and proceed thence to Bantay Bay, Ireland, to engage in a naval demonstration of extraordinary importance. Torpedo experiments



